9411315

RELEASED IN FULL

United States Department of State

Washington, D. C. 20520

5/15/94

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

S/S

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: G - Mr. Wirth

FROM: RP - Phyllis E. Oakley, Acting

SUBJECT: Your Appointment with Mr. Jean de Courten, Director of Operations, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in your Office on May 17 at 3:00 p.m.

I. OBJECTIVES

1. To discuss ICRC's humanitarian operations in Rwanda.
2. To explore ICRC's assumptions for the future in Bosnia.
3. To follow up on your discussion with ICRC President Sommaruga on human rights efforts of the ICRC in Turkey.
4. To discuss ICRC's role in keeping the international community aware of the magnitude of the worldwide anti-personnel landmine problem.

II. APPROACH

Jean de Courten is well-placed as Director of Operations; he is one of the most effective managers at ICRC. He is well-versed in both the theoretical aspects of ICRC's mandate for humanitarian activities as well as the practical details of

CONFIDENTIAL

Lot 97D241
Box 6

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E LANDFAIR
DATE/CASE ID: 30 JUN 2004 200301102

ICRC programs, including budgets. The de Courten visit is somewhat routine, to exchange views with USG decision-makers on ICRC programs and policy. Internally, however, ICRC is wrestling with the changing nature of humanitarian action and ICRC's mandate in a world where respect by warring parties for neutral, humanitarian assistance is declining. ICRC must review its relationships with UN peacekeeping forces, with other agencies doing humanitarian work in conflict areas, and, simply, whether it is able to keep up with the exploding humanitarian workload.

III. PARTICIPANTS

U.S.

The Undersecretary

RP Phyllis E. Oakley

HA/MLA Josiah Rosenblatt

RP Notetaker Katherine Perkins

UNHCR

Jean de Courten, ICRC Director of Operations

Pierre Pont, ICRC Delegate, New York

Harald Schmid de Gruneck, Fundraiser, ICRC

Attachments:

Tab 1 - Talking Points

Tab 2 - Biographic Information

Tab 3 - Background on Objectives

Drafted: RP/P:PRLynch:PM/ISP:VBelon
5/12/93 SEICRC 77 3-1076
Cleared: C: TLoar
RP: BMcKinley
IO/ESA: MPollack
EUR/EE: JMoore
ARA:ECEngels
AF/C:KAiston
HA:MMartinez
S/S-S:

TALKING POINTS FOR ICRC MEETING

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(D)

A10a

Rwanda

-- It would be hard to overstate the respect we have for the staying power and the courage of the ICRC delegates in Kigali in the face of the desparate situation there and the atrocities of which your delegates have been both witnesses and victims.

-- You are aware of UN discussions about a peacekeeping force and its role. We want an international presence in the South to protect the population from massacres and allow access for humanitarian relief.

-- We are studying your new appeal and expect to continue our strong support for ICRC programs in Africa and elsewhere in the world.

Bosnia

-- The Bosnian Federation agreement was signed Saturday in Geneva and the ministers who met last week made some progress toward a cessation of hostilities. How do you see the immediate future in Bosnia?

-- To which areas of the conflict do you have the most difficult access at present?

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E LANDFAIR
DATE/CASE ID: 30 JUN 2004 200301102

-- I know ICRC has been quite concerned about continued ethnic cleansing in the Banja Luka area. Has ICRC access and assistance to civilians improved there?

Turkey

-- In my meeting with ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga last October, we discussed ICRC efforts to have a humanitarian presence in Turkey, and I told him we would follow up with the Turkish government. We have spoken to the Turkish government concerning the benefits of ICRC programs.

B1

-- The Turkish government continues to be concerned that cooperation with the ICRC would lend legitimacy to the Kurdistan Workers' Party.

-- Your Delegate General for Europe, Mr. Germond, told us the ICRC planned to approach the Pentagon to seek its assistance in persuading the Turkish military to be open about the ICRC. Has the ICRC discussed the matter with the Pentagon?

-- Have you asked any other country to approach the Turkish government on this matter?

Landmines

-- Since 1992, the U.S. has taken notable steps on landmine issues. We have established a unilateral moratorium on the export of all U.S. anti-personnel landmines and components for a total of four years (until October 1996).

-- The U.S. introduced and won consensus support for a UN General Assembly resolution calling on all states to agree to a moratorium on the export of anti-personnel landmines that pose grave dangers to civilian populations.

-- We have also taken more immediate, practical measures by assisting demining programs in several landmine-plagued countries, including Afghanistan, Cambodia, and Mozambique.

-- I know that ICRC has a very direct interest in the international community's actions to reduce the threat of landmines to civilian populations. What actions do you think would be the most effective?

A10c

BACKGROUND ON OBJECTIVES

RELEASED IN FULL

Rwanda

-- Since the evacuation of Kigali, ICRC has been the sole humanitarian agency to work inside Rwanda. Patients in ICRC hospitals have been murdered. The Red Cross has lost more humanitarian workers in Rwanda than in any operation since the first World War.

-- RP will be reviewing with de Courten and Schmid de Gruneck the financial needs of the organization. We have provided $82 million to ICRC already this year, $35 million of it for Africa. There may be more available for Rwanda.

Bosnia

-- ICRC programs in the former Yugoslavia include the provision of medical supplies, projects to ensure safe drinking water, the reuniting and tracing of families separated by war and protective visits to about 6200 prisoners in detention camps.

-- The ICRC food distribution program in Bosnia, which at one time reached some 560,000 beneficiaries, is now being scaled back because of greatly improved commercial access following the Croat-Bosnian confederation.

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E LANDFAIR
DATE/CASE ID: 30 JUN 2004 200301102

-- ICRC relief activities are of critical importance, especially in Bosnia, and have been widely recognized as among the most valuable and effective in the region. Thus far in FY 1994 RP has contributed $7 million to ICRC programs in Bosnia and Croatia.

Landmines

-- ICRC's interest in landmine issues stems from their medical programs, which treat large numbers of victims of landmines every year. ICRC also takes a pro-active interest in the development of International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

-- In late February, the New York Times reported that the ICRC was planning to call for a complete ban on the use of anti-personnel landmines. **The Administration does not support the concept of a total ban on landmines.**

-- The Times also quoted ICRC President Sommaruga as saying that the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW) Review Conference should focus on improving verification of compliance and extending the provisions of the landmines protocol to include civil wars. The USG agrees.

-- Our export moratorium initiative has made significant progress. Of the 44 landmine-producing countries we have approached, more than half have responded positively, and nine have adopted export moratoria.